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should you get a mini-van? With Martha Stewart out of the mix, how will I ever decorate my home? Oh, and that comment about the fly swatter: it is obvious I am out of touch with the NEA, AMA, and the ABA! That's alright though, I learned that from NANA!

You will never know God's will until you tell the world to "hush, take a number and get in line!" Polls, popular opinions, and personal desires have to be put behind timeless and eternal values such as found in the Bible. **Times change. Truth doesn't!**

### *To Know God's Will... Set Your Mind on God's Word.*

Can you imagine a trip to Detroit without a map? What's worse, can you imagine a trip to Detroit with a map that you don't read? The fact is that is how many of us try to live our lives. We are prone to say, "Well, I just don't think God wants me to be unhappy!" All the while, we fail to realize we are practicing *Spiritual Ventriloquism*. You know what I mean, that's when you attempt to cast your voice into the mouth of God. Been there, done that, *huh?* I know, even though you don't wear it, *you probably have the T-shirt too!* By the way, don't ask me how I know so much about *Spiritual Ventriloquism*, but take my word for this much... IT DON'T WORK! I know, bad grammar, but you got the point, didn't you?

Don't talk about wanting to know God's will while being too busy to read the map. Timeless truths have timely applications. Let His values form your views and your behaviors. Too stodgy for you? Too stiff? Well, if you ignore the roadmap on your journey to Detroit you may just end up in Upper Volta **or worse!** And if you ignore the Bible on your trip toward happiness, you're certain to miss that right turn (as Bugs) would say, in Albuquerque. The more you are in the scriptures daily, the more you will hear the voice of God and know His will. So, now is the time to take what you have learned and claim God's promise, "***Whether you turn to the right or to the left, your ears will hear a voice behind you, saying, 'This is the way; walk in it'***" (Isa. 30:21). God has a specific plan for your life. **Dust off your roadmap!**

Dr. Terry Booth, Pastor  
Amite Baptist Church  
7100 Amite Church Road  
Denham Springs, LA 70706  
(225) 665-2762  
tbooth@amitechurch.org



## Finding My Way

***"If I only knew what to do..."*** Has this thought ever crossed your mind? How about, ***"God, where are you? Please show me the way!"*** Take heart! God does have a definite purpose and plan for your life – that's right, **your individual life**. And there is even more good news; **God has made a way for you to know His will for your life.**

Can you imagine a Father without great plans for his son or a mother without wonderful dreams for her daughter? Is there a President without a platform? A General without a battle-plan? An

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Haven't you noticed nature itself operates within an orderly plan? Whether we consider the course of the planets, the change of the seasons, the world of science, or the beauty of music, there is an orderly plan. All of life moves according to constants. When that order is understood and respected, life is fruitful and fulfilling. When natural order is dismissed and disobeyed, disaster follows. That which is true in the natural universe is

also true in our individual lives. We do not really **LIVE** until we live according to God's plan!

We can scarcely turn the pages of the Bible without recognizing that God is directing man's path in life. Abraham, Joseph, Moses, Joshua, Samuel, David, Jeremiah, Hosea, Nehemiah, Mary, Peter, Paul and all those to their left and right were men and women for which God had a plan. Hold on, don't abandon ship yet. Even those names you can't pronounce (Mahashalel-hashbaz) and those long genealogical lists you skip over are people for whom God had a plan. That's not all. Even the unnamed woman at the well, the man born blind, and the child with the sack lunch were part of God's strategic plan for history.

If you are still not sure that God has a unique and significant plan for your life, consider these specific passages of scripture. The Shepherd-King – David prayed, **“Teach me to do thy will for you are my God,”** (Psalms 143:10). Jesus said, **“My food, is to do the**

**will of him who sent me and to finish his work.”** In Hebrews 10:36 we read, **“You have need of endurance, so that after you have done the will of God, you may receive the promise.”** The Apostle John taught, **“he who does the will of God abides forever”** (I John 2:17). In Romans 12:1-2, the Apostle Paul called on believers to, **“present your bodies a living sacrifice, holy, acceptable to God, which is your reasonable service. And do not be conformed to this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your mind, that you may prove what is that good and acceptable and perfect will of God.”** Did you catch that last statement? Paul is teaching us how to know, to prove, to experience the perfect will of God! Isn't this exciting...

### **GOD'S WILL CAN BE KNOWN!**

OK, so now you are convinced, what can you do to know the will of God? Back up a few lines to Romans 12:1-2. Read it again slowly. There are the first three clues to the treasure chest of God's will.

- **Surrender your will.**
- **Separate yourself from the world.**
- **Set your mind on God's truth.**

Let's look at each one for a moment.

### **To Know God's Will... Surrender Your Will.**

Imagine your child saying, “Hey Mom, tell what I can do to help, and I'll tell you

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whether I will do it or not!” Now, just where is that FLY SWATTER! In the same way a wise parent does not reveal his or her will for a child until the spirit of rebellion has been, shall we say, **redirected**; our all-knowing God will not reveal His will until you are ready to do it. Paul said, **“Present your bodies a living sacrifice.”** He means, get online, get onboard, and get obedient! You will not know God's will until you are completely willing to do God's will. “Well,” you may say, “That's the whole point. I can't know if I am willing or not until I know what His will is!” That my friend is rebellion, stubbornness, and self-centeredness. Have you forgotten, HE'S GOD, You're not?

### **To Know God's Will... Separate from the World.**

No, that does not mean you have to move to Outer Mongolia or Upper Volta, or even Plaquemine. Separating from world simply means that you are not going to let all the voices around you decide God's will for your life.

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The world around you is constantly trying to shape your views, your values, and your behavior. Vote Republican, no Democrat, on second thought Independent. Bell-bottoms are in, or is that Capris? Oh, I don't know. I've lost my Sears catalogue (AF for you younger types). Should you shave your head or grow it long? Are SUVs still in or